The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

AGITATE !
EDUCATE !
ORGANIZE !

Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1917, at the Post-office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

VOL. 10. NO. 3. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 1920. WHOLE NO. 471.

STRIKING STEEL WORKERS DID NOT WAGE LOSING FIGHT

Pittsburg, Pa., April 10.—Opponents of the recent iron and steel strike, who claim these workers were defeated, can get little consolation from a report just issued by the national committee for organizing iron and steel workers.

"This report," says the committee, "will forever silence, if not shame, the class of men who were fond of saying, 'the steel industry cannot be organized.' It was organized. It also furnished a crushing answer to Judge Gary, who asserted that only 10 per cent of the steel workers were organized. This report represents an irreducable minimum. Local unions, when organized, did not as a rule make accounting to the national committee for additional members enrolled."

The committee shows that during the period from August 1, 1918, to January 31, 1920, there were 156,702 workers enrolled and assigned to the unions of their craft in half a hundred localities. This does not include many thousands signed up at Bethlehem, the home of the Bethlehem steel corporation; Steelton, Reading and numerous other points, nor in Gary, Joliet, Indiana Harbor, South Chicago and other Chicago district points where the committee ceased collecting $1 of initiation fees early last year. The record does not include the thousands of men who joined local unions and which were not reported to the committee. Neither does it include the ex-soldiers who were admitted without an initiation charge. In Johnstown, Pa., 1,300 ex-soldiers joined under this arrangement.

"It may be conservatively estimated," says the committee, "that well over 250,000 actual steel workers joined the unions during this campaign, notwithstanding the opposition of the steel trust, which discharged thousands of its workers, completely suppressed free speech and free assembly in Pennsylvania and used every known tactic to prevent the organization of its employes."

The committee states that at the beginning of the strike approximately 367,000 men were involved. The strike lasted three and one-half months and when it was called off, 100,000 men were involved.

"Wherever the national committee started to organize the steel workers, it succeeded," says the report. "It carried on its campaign in the face of the most terrific obstacles. It was confronted with all the opposition that could be mustered by the steel trust. It held meetings on streets, on mountain sides, in cellars and back rooms and in halls. But whether the opposition was much or little the work never stopped.

"The national committee began its work on the theory that any men in any industry could be organized if they could be reached with the message of unionism. This report proves the correctness of this theory. This report should convey a lesson and furnish an inspiration to the labor movement of this country. It means that with the application of these same principles any industry in America can be organized."

COAL OWNERS AGREE TO INCREASE WAGES

New York, April 10.—Coal owners and miners of the central competitive field have signed a two-year wage agreement which embodies the 27 per cent award of the president's coal commission. The central competitive field is western Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, and serves as a basis for other fields.

Starting with the miners' convention last fall, this wage movement included many unusual features, among them being an injunction issued by a federal court at the request of the department of justice that was intended to break the nation-wide strike of miners. The injunction was a failure and then Fuel Administrator Garfield handed down his famous award of 14 per cent increase which would re-establish, he said, the miners' living standards that existed before the war. The miners rejected this theory. They refused to accept a standard of six years ago.

The campaign of opposition to the miners was in startling contrast to the praise heaped upon them during the war. On October 20, 1918, the publicity division of the department of labor issued this statement:

"Less than 600,000 miners are now actually bearing the greatest responsibility that has come to any class of workers who are giving their strength to the winning of the war. They have broken all previous records in production, although thousands of their comrades have gone into the army and the navy.

"Before the first draft approximately 700,000 mine workers were employed in the United States. Then the war took about 15 per cent of the workers, for a large number volunteered, in addition to the loss by draft."

SHAM "UNION" BLOWS UP.

New York, April 10.—The actors' fidelity league has blown up and the actors' equity association will admit all eligible members of the defunct outfit. The league was formed during the actors' recent strike and received the blessing of theatrical managers, who vowed that they would close their theaters before they would recognize the actors' equity association.

The managers failed to estimate the sticking qualities of the actors and actresses, among whom were the stars of the American stage, and the managers found that the strikers were doing what they themselves threatened—close the theaters. A settlement was reached and the equity association announce that between $600,000 and $700,000 has been paid their members as a result of improved conditions. One day last week the managers paid $14,000.

ECHO OF STEEL STRIKE.

Moundsville, W. Va., April 10.—A circuit court jury has decided that William Meyers, former steel striker, is not guilty of conspiracy to cause a riot. The accused was arrested after Sheriff Clayton of Marshall county invaded Benwood with a great flourish to "put down rebellion." The incident was given due publicity at the time by a hostile press. At the trial the sheriff exhibited a coat with several bullet holes. One of the bullets went through the back of the coat and the defense asked why it did not injure the officer who wore the coat.

REJECT WOMEN'S BILL.

Albany, N. Y., April 10.—The state senate has rejected a bill to create a commission with power to investigate conditions in industries in which women and minors are employed. The author of the bill presented good trade union philosophy in his statement that workers cannot get their rights from employers simply because they are rights.

SOLDIERS' INSURANCE.

Washington, April 10.—The United States bureau of war risk insurance urges all ex-service men to take advantage of government insurance that has been established for their benefit. Prompt information will be forwarded by the bureau at Washington or by the many war-work organizations in every community.

$5,500,000 FOR SHOES.

Washington, April 10.—The army's shoe bill next year will total $5,500,000, or an average of $7.50 a pair, according to army officials, testifying before the house military committee.

STREET CAR MEN GAIN.

San Antonio, Texas, April 10.—The local traction company has raised wages 5 cents an hour for platform men.

UNIONISTS PRESENT HIGH COST SOLUTION

Washington, April 10.—On the question of high costs of living and wages, the conference of trade unionists, called by President Gompers, last December, declared:

"No factor contributes more to industrial unrest and instability than excessive costs of necessaries of life. It is a demonstrated truth that the cost of living has advanced more rapidly than have wages. The claim that increasing wages make necessary increased prices is false. It is intended to throw upon the workers the blame for a process by which all the people have been made to suffer. Labor has been compelled to struggle desperately to keep wages in some measure up to the cost of living. The demand for higher compensation to meet new price levels has made industrial readjustment necessary.

"Existing high and excessive prices are due to the present inflation of money and credits, to profiteering by those who manufacture, sell and market products, and to burdens levied by middlemen and speculators. We urge:

"The deflation of currency; prevention of hoarding and unfair price fixing; establishment of co-operative movements under the Rochdale system; making accessible all income tax returns and dividend declarations as a direct and truthful means of revealing excessive costs and profits.

"The ideal of America should be the organization of industry for service and not for profit alone. The stigma of disgrace should attach to every person who profits unduly at the expense of his fellow men."

ANOTHER LABOR CONFAB.

Washington, April 10.—Just when the public is forgetting scare headlines about the president's industrial conference settling the labor problem, announcement is made that the question will again be discussed.

United States Senator Kenyon proposes that the president call a national industrial congress composed of an equal number of delegates, 150 each, representing labor, capitalists and the public. The president of the A. F. of L. shall nominate 10 delegates, each A. F. of L. international affiliate one, the railroad brotherhoods, state federations, the women's trade union league, one each, and 10 delegates from "labor not affiliated with federations of labor."

The senate committee on labor, of which Senator Kenyon is chairman, will hold hearings on the resolution calling on the president to convene the proposed congress.

TEAMSTERS MAKE GAINS.

Brockton, Mass., April 10.—Coal teamsters have raised wages, secured the Saturday half holiday six months in the year, time and one-half for overtime and double time for Sundays and holidays. A few years ago these workers were unorganized and labored under every evil that marks this condition.

Portland, Ore., April 10.—A one-year agreement has been signed by the Teamsters' union and employers. Wages are increased 50 cents a day.

Norwich, Conn., April 10.—Teamsters in this city have organized a union with almost a 100 per cent membership.

ANTIS ARE CHECKED.

Temple, Texas, April 10.—The anti-trade union movement that was launched in several towns in this state is at a standstill, reports Secretary-Treasurer McKinley of the state federation of labor. These trade union opponents would be pleased to be known as "open" shop advocates. This term has a more pleasing sound and creates the impression that the antis favor trade unions "if they are run right."

LOW WAGES IMPERIL HEALTH.

New York, April 10.—Resignations from the city health department because of low wages is endangering the city's health, said Health Commissioner Copeland.

Chemists and other scientific men in such important departments as food, drugs, and milk, are paid as low as $1,200 a year and are being forced to accept employment elsewhere, the health official said.

BLAME SKY-HIGH CREDIT.

Chicago, April 10.—In an address in this city, Frank A. Vanderlip, New York banker, said the inflation of currency and bank credit is mainly responsible "for the 250 per cent rise in the last six years."

WANT EIGHT-HOUR DAY

Worcester, Mass., April 10.—Employes of the local traction company are demanding an eight-hour day and wage increases.

FRENCH TYPOS STRIKE TO RETAIN 8-HOUR DAY

Paris, France, April 10.—More than 6,000 printers in this district are on strike to enforce the eight-hour law passed by the French parliament. The printers asked for wage increases to meet the high cost of living, and were informed that wages would be increased if the 10-hour day was reinstated.

The Typographical union of France has levied an assessment on the entire membership and has issued this statement:

"It is the eight-hour day that the master printers are determined to abolish, and in these conditions it is our imperative duty to support our Paris brothers. The eight-hour day, which the workers have bought with their blood and their lives, demanded for 30 years by the trade unionists, and finally enacted into law by parliament—this eight-hour day we shall defend to the limit of our strength. It is regrettable to be compelled to admit that the eight-hour day, given an international standing by incorporation into the peace treaty, is being deliberately sabotaged by French employers.

"It has been the constant effort of the Typographical union to shorten the working day in correlation with the installation of labor saving machinery. The eight-hour law legalized our demand. Our trade union education, the very fundamentals of the organized labor movement, impose upon organized labor the imperative duty of defending this working class victory against the consolidated employers waging a war for its destruction. Every local affiliated with the Typographical union of France must give whole hearted suport to our Paris brothers on strike. For it is well known that if the master printers of Paris win in this battle they will undertake to use their position as a vantage ground to destroy our unions throughout France."

APPLAUD JAILED SEAMEN.

Norfolk, Va., April 10.—At a meeting of over 200 members of the Seamen's union, the following message was forwarded to 31 members of the union who are in jail in this city as a protest against a sentence for mutiny when they quit their vessel when in a safe harbor:

"We, the seamen now in the port of Norfolk, appreciate the hardship which you will be suffering, but, with you, we realize that there will be no difference between a vessel and your jail if this ruling is not reversed. We thank you. We glory in you. You are men. You are the kind of material out of which real seamen are made. The seamen of the country are with you. We thank you in the name of all the seamen whose burdens you are now bearing."

Before the meeting adjourned, three cheers were given for the jailed seamen.

The seamen shipped on the vessel Poughkeepsie for a six months' trip to Europe. On the return voyage the ship put in at Bermuda after the six months had expired. When the vessel was safely docked the men asked for their pay and when this was refused they quit. They were arrested for mutiny and brought to Norfolk under guard and each sentenced to 40 days in jail and a $50 fine. The seamen show there is no law to justify this procedure, and ask if they are guilty of mutiny why are they not sentenced to terms in the penitentiary of from five to 10 years, as the law provides. They can secure their release on $500 bond, pending appeal to a higher court, but this they refuse to do.

OPPOSE UNION SHOP.

Atlanta, April 10.—Building contractors have refused to renew a wage agreement with several unions of the building trades because these employes insist that union men be employed. The contractors want the skill of these workers, but they don't want their independence, that is made possible through collective action. So the contractors attempt to disguise their position by saying the contest is between the "closed" shop and the "open" shop, when in truth it is a contest between organized workers and anti-trade union employers.

Regardless of every appeal the contractors would make to surface thinkers and non-thinkers, they want the non-union shop. They want to have the final word over working conditions and when an individual worker objects he can be discharged without a protest being registered by his unorganized fellows

KANSAS MINERS OUT.

Pittsburg, Kan., April 10.—About 2,000 coal miners have suspended work. This is in violation of the recently-enacted "can't-strike" law passed by the Kansas legislature, and these workers can be jailed and fined. The state attorney general is quoted as saying that he will take no action unless the strike is "prolonged." As the law does not empower the attorney general to make this decision, his statement is significant.

Governor Allen, sponsor for the law, is telling eastern folks how he has finally settled differences between capitalists and laborers.

MANY SCHOOLS CLOSED.

Washington, April 10.—There are 18,279 schools in this country that have been closed because teachers have been starved out and cannot continue on the low wages paid, said Arthur E. Holder, member federal board for vocational education. He has summarized the board's investigation of this question and declares that "the paramount issue of today is the welfare of our children, our schools and our teachers."

WANT NON-UNION SHOP.

Long Beach, Cal., April 10.—The chamber of commerce has declared for the non-union shop and is extolling the beauties of individual bargaining, which it calls the "open" shop. Trade unionists are conducting a counter agitation, and warn workers to stay away. Rents are prohibitive even if a worker were ignorant of the purposes of the present anti-union movement.

GAIN 1,000 MEMBERS.

St. Paul, Minn., April 10.—An increase of 1,000 members during the last few weeks is reported by Butcher Workmen's union No. 165. This local was formed in 1918. In four months it had 2,500 members. The present increase is the result of a 100 per cent organizing campaign.

U. S. SENATE REJECTS ANTI-UNION SCHEME

Washington, April 10.—By a vote of 43 to 3 the United States senate rejected an amendment to the civil service retirement bill which would exclude from the benefits of this legislation any government employe who belongs to a union affiliated with the A. F. of L. Senator Myers of Montana offered the amendment.

After months of haranguing in the senate on this question but two senators—Thomas of Colorado and Warren of Wyoming—joined with the Montana lawmaker.

Senator Myers delivered one of his usual "scare" orations and objected to federal employes who hold their present position, he said, "by our will," aiding the A. F. of L. in its present political program. The senator modified previous opposition to the A. F. of L., which has, he now says, "the right to exist." Neither does he object to trade unionists striking, but he does insist that the federal employes should not be affiliated with the A. F. of L. If they desire to organize a ping pong association or a croquet club, well and good, saith the law maker. But when they, "whom we support," associate with the A. F. of L. to defeat congressmen and senators, that is a different proposition and must be stopped. Mr. Myers indicated that the federal employes are an ungrateful lot. They are voted wages and then actually urge the defeat of their benefactors because the wages are not sufficient.

Senator Thomas wandered along the same lines. The senate finally silenced the orators by a vote of 43 to 3.

FULL POLITICAL RIGHTS DENIED CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYES' WIVES

Washington, April 10.—The debarring of political activity by federal employes has been extended to the wives of these employes by the United States civil service commission.

The commission has changed the Anglo-Saxon theory that a man is innocent until proven guilty by his accusers by holding that where the wife of a federal employe is politically active the husband must prove that he is not engaged in political activity by proxy.

Under this order if John Jones, a postal employe, is married, and his wife takes time from her household duties to solicit votes for a congressman who is pledged to favor better conditions for postoffice employes, John Jones is guilty of entering into collusion with his wife to evade the order against political activity and can be dismissed from the service. The fact that he may benefit through his wife's action is proof of his guilt., although she is exercising a voter's right.

The post office department has notified postmasters and employes of this order, which follows:

"Prohibited political activity by an employe does not consist exclusively in direct, open, actual, personal participation in political affairs. What a classified employe is prohibited from doing independently and directly he may not do indirectly and by collusion or co-operation. Collusion is a fact always open to proof and often presumed from the relation of the parties and the manifest motive based on supposed or intended beneficial results to the persons involved. If a husband or wife of an employe in a competitive position engages in political activity for the benefit of such employe the presumption of collusion is immediate and strong and casts upon the employe the burden of overcoming the assumption by affirmative proof.

"The commission is of opinion, therefore, that evasion of the rule by an employe through activities of wife or husband will be found the easiest of all forms of collusion to discover, establish, and punish."

PROTEST COAL PRICE BOOST.

New York, April 10.—Representatives of the United Mine Workers declare that the recent wage increase of 27 per cent does not justify coal owners in their decision to increase prices. The miners said:

"When Fuel Administrator Garfield granted miners a 14 per cent increase which could be paid out of the coal owners' profits, the coal owners passed the increase on to the public on at least 80 or 90 per cent of their coal."

"The present increase," the miners say, "adds 13 per cent increase to the miners over the 14 per cent granted by Garfield. If Garfield was right in saying they could absorb and pay the 14 per cent out of their profits, then they can at least absorb the 13 per cent now, instead of passing it on to the public."

"The wage increase was 27 per cent. This means that the increase in the cost of production cannot exceed 40 to 50 cents a ton. Then why should the coal owners boost the price $1.25 or $1.50 a ton, even if they pass all of the increase on to the public?"

ENJOIN MACHINERY CO.

St. Louis, Mo., April 10.—Federal District Court Judge Trieber has enjoined the United Shoe Machinery company of Massachusetts from enforcing a contract which required prohibitive royalties on shoes made by machines rented from the company. It is claimed that the company controls 98 per cent of the shoe machinery business of the country.

Trade unionists are contrasting the company's contract policy with a strike of several thousand of its employes at Beverly, Mass., who are demanding the right to bargain collectively. The company operates on the piece work basis, runs a non-union shop and deals with its employes as individuals. It calls this system the "open" shop.

VALUE OF PUBLIC OPINION.

Washington, April 10.—In urging the value of publicity, President Steward of the National Federation of Federal Employes, calls on affiliates and officers to be ceaseless in educating the public to the work and aims of this organization.

"There is no simple formula for getting information to the American people," said President Steward. "It comes home to us, however, with constantly accentuated force, that the condition of federal employes will improve with about the same speed as favorable public opinion develops toward our cause."

WANT LAW ENFORCED.

San Juan, Porto Rico, April 10.—Santiago Iglesias, state senator and member of organized labor, has introduced a joint resolution in the Porto Rico legislature calling for the enforcement of the land provisions of the Porto Rico organic act, which provides that no person or corporation shall hold land in excess of 500 acres. A list of holdings show that large numbers of corporations violate this provision.

GOOD TEACHERS NEEDED.

Oakland, Cal., April 10.—The state branch of the American Federation of Teachers has adopted this slogan: "Every child is worth a $2,000 teacher." It is stated that even with proposed wage increases the average rate for teachers in California will be less than $1,000 a year.

STATE UNIONS TO MEET.

Waterbury, Conn., April 10.—The annual convention of the Connecticut state federation of labor will be held in this city from May 24 to 27.

ACCEPT PENSION PLAN; SENATE MAKES RECORD

Washington, April 10.—By passing the Stirling-Lehlbach retirement bill for federal employes in the civil service the senate has made a record. It is the first time this principle has been accepted by either branch of congress.

An amendment by Senator Smoot extends the age of retirement for all classes to 70 years. Friends of retirement feared the bill would be sidetracked if this amendment was defeated and they accepted the proposal. As reported to the senate the bill fixed the retirement age at 65 with a proviso that the retirement age for mechanics, city and rural letter carriers and postoffice clerks should be 62 years and railway mail clerks 60 years.

After the Smoot amendment was adopted, the opposition, which has delayed action for months, disappeared. The bill has been favorably reported by the house committee, and it is hoped that the senate's age limit will not be concurred in.

Under the senate bill a sum equal to 2½ per cent of the employes' basic wage is to be deducted monthly to aid in forming the retirement fund. The president may extend the law to include employes not classified at the time of passage of the act.

An employe must have been employed at least 15 years to benefit under the act. The maximum payment to a retired employe is $720 a year and the minimum is $180. An employe who becomes disabled for efficient service, and who has been employed by the government for 15 years, may be retired.

URGE TAXATION CHANGES.

Chicago, April 10.—The executive board of the Illinois state federation of labor offers these tax suggestions to the state constitutional convention, now in session:

"Provisions should be made that the legislature have the power to enact laws classifying property, both real and personal, tangible and intangible, with the further provision, of course, that all property in the same class be equally taxed.

"Provision should be made for graduated income and inheritance taxes, with the heavier burdens on the larger inheritances and on unearned incomes.

"Since our natural resources are the gift of nature to the race and are the real source of all wealth, and therefore the natural and original source of public revenues, provision should be made to collect more revenue for public purposes from water power, mineral deposits, such as oil fields and coal beds; the unearned increment of land values, which, after all, is really earned by the labor and productive power of the whole community and should be taken in taxes to support community institutions; any socially created increase in the value of natural resources; any part of our natural resources held out of use for gain or speculative purposes."

CO-OP. AN EDUCATION.

Springfield, Ill., April 10.—President Walker of the state federation of labor shows that the co-operative movement possess advantages other than reducing prices.

The trade union executive is a member of the A. F. of L. co-operative committee, and says that workers are acquiring, to a surprising degree, a knowledge of co-operative theory and practice. In addition they will eventually possess a knowledge of industry, commerce and economics.

"These acquirements," said President Walker, "will enable the workers to operate their own stores, conduct their own productive enterprises and to know the relationship between law (the government) and industry and commerce, and thus be able to act more intelligently politically in protecting and promoting their interests."

STARTING FROM BOTTOM.

Temple, Texas, April 10.—Trade unionists in this state are urged to take an active part in the precinct and county conventions that will elect delegates to the state convention that will elect delegates to the San Francisco convention of the dominant party in this state.

"Every wage earner," says Secretary-Treasurer McKinley of the state federation of labor, "should take an active part in these conventions to the end that none but friends of organized labor be sent as delegates to the state convention."

HUGE PROFITS IN RUBBER.

New York, April 10.—The United States Rubber company reports a profit last year of $17,730,237. Total sales were $225,589,465, an increase of more than $10,000,000 over the sales of the previous year, which latter included a large volume of war business. The company owns large rubber plantations in the far east.

IRON WORKERS WIN.

Chicago, April 10.—After a week's strike employes of the Variety Manufacturing company have won union recognition, the 44-hour week and a 10 per cent wage increase. The majority of the employes are structural iron workers, with a number of machinists and blacksmiths.

Two-Thirds of U. S. Receipts Were Spent on War Costs

Washington, April 10.—Sixty-six cents of every dollar received by the government since its establishment has been used for war purposes and subsequent costs, said Senator Wadsworth in defending a bill that would establish compulsory military training in this country.

Senator Wadsworth said the use of two-thirds of the nation's income in this manner proves America never had a military policy—and compulsory training would supply this need by compelling every boy, on reaching his eighteenth year, to take military training and then be assigned to what shall be known as the "reserves" of the army.

This plan is exclusive of the army reorganization plan, which provides for a regular army of 280,000 men and 18,000 officers. The senator said it costs $1,800 a year in peace times to maintain a soldier in the regular army. The number of boys that will be under training is estimated at 3,000,000.

Who Gets the Benefit Of Greater Production?

Brussels, Belgium, April 10.—Belgian trade unionists are interested in the campaign for greater production, but they want to know if this means lower prices to consumers or greater profits for labor exploiters who will raise prices.

In its manifesto on the high cost of living the Belgian Federation of Trade Unions says:

"The workers of Belgium have demonstrated by their actions that they are ready to collaborate in the work of reconstruction by contributing their whole-hearted effort toward intensifying production.

"But the workers must obtain effective assurances with regard to the immediate application of the eight-hour day and guarantees against unemployment and wage reductions.

"Moreover, the workers must be assured that the increased production due to their increased efforts shall result in ameliorating the condition of the consumers instead of raising still higher the already scandalously large profits of the labor exploiters."

INSIST ON STRIKE RIGHT.

London, England, April 10.—At a dinner given in his honor by cable officials and operators, Newcomb Carlton, president of the Western Union Telegraph company, heard some blunt statements by a British trade unionist.

Mr. Carlton said he wanted first-hand information on the views of employes, and A. Crisp, a member of the Cable-Telegraph Operators' association, replied:

"The Operators' association has taken the unalterable attitude that it is entitled to retain, in common with every other body of organized workers, the right to strike, should the regrettable necessity to do so ever arise."

The Western Union cable system does not recognize the Operators' association, and the speaker said it was possible to secure a signed pledge from the cable men not to strike for two years if their association was recognized, returned soldiers not penalized, and working conditions improved. Turning to President Carlton, the speaker gave notice that the right to strike would not be surrendered on the assurance of the cable official that his board of directors "are genuinely solicitous of the welfare of their employes."

CALLS IT "PEONAGE COURT."

Topeka, Kan., April 10.—Trade unionists in this state are referring to Governor Allen's "can't-strike" machinery as "the peonage court." Under this law strikes are unlawful and three appointees of the governor constitute an industrial court that is empowered to arrange wages and working conditions for Kansas employes.

The members of the "peonage court" are making little headway, and it is hinted that they are beginning to realize the extent of their task. Governor Allen is touring the country in an effort to induce other states to pass a similar law, and Editor Brown of the Kansas Trades Unionist suggests to the state executive that he forego this advice until the usefulness of his industrial court is demonstrated.

LOW WAGE PROVES COSTLY.

Washington, April 10.—The government's low wage policy is proving costly in practically every department. Employes are resigning from the post office branch in large numbers and now it is stated that the agricultural department faces a condition that threatens its efficiency. Over 8,000 men have left this service because of the desire of congress to make a record for economy. Department chiefs show that it is no economy when valuable men are lost because of low wages. In the list of those who have resigned from the agricultural department are authorities on enemies of plant life that cause an annual loss of millions of dollars to farmers and horticulturists.

HAVE KAISER IDEA.

Birmingham, Ala., April 10.—Coal owners in this city have announced a labor policy that includes all matters of interest to their employes. The scheme was fixed up at a meeting of 40 or 50 coal owners. The miners are 85 per organized in this state, but they were not consulted and the coal owners made no reference to collective bargaining or recognition of the miners' right to form unions, other than along the lines of company organizations.

GOLD BEATERS GAIN.

New York, April 10.—Organized gold beaters have raised wages to a weekly minimum of $44, through conferences with New York, Philadelphia, Boston and Chicago employers. In April, 1916, the weekly rate of these workers was $20. Since that time wages have been advanced to $44, or 198 per cent.

WIN UNION SHOP.

Stamford, Conn., April 10.—The Ladies' Garment Workers' union has secured a union shop agreement which reduces the 58-hour week to 48 hours, and establishes a $40 weekly minimum for journeymen and $15 for female assistants.

SEAMEN'S LAW IS UPHELD BY FEDERAL SUPREME COURT

Washington, April 10.—A seaman's contract made in a foreign country is not valid in America unless it conforms to the LaFollette seamen's law, rules the United States supreme court, which has dealt a smashing blow to world-wide opponents of this legislation.

A seaman named Dillon shipped from Liverpool in 1916 in a vessel owned by the Strathearn Steamship company. The voyage was not to exceed three years. No wages were to be paid or liberty granted Dillon except at the pleasure of the captain. When the vessel arrived at Pensacola, Florida, Dillon asked for one-half of wages due him. This was refused and he filed suit in the federal district court for $125, the amount of wages earned at the time of demand and refusal. Dillon was defeated in the district court, but this decision was reversed by the circuit court of appeals. The vessel owners then appealed to the United States supreme court. In sustaining Dillon the supreme court notifies the world's shipping interests that when contracts are signed with seamen for a voyage that will include America these contracts will not be recognized in America unless they conform to the American seamen's law.

The case was considered so important to its shipping interests that the British government asked the supreme court, through its ambassador to America, for permission to be represented by counsel as "a friend of the court." The court granted this request, and Frederick C. Coudert, New York lawyer, was retained by Great Britain.

The United States department of justice was then accorded the same courtesy, and what was originally a working man's demand for wages developed into an international contest. The International Seamen's union fought the case for Dillon at a cost of over $10,000. The unionists were represented by Hon. George Sutherland, former United States senator from Utah.

The British government insisted that the vessel was British property; that British, and not American, laws should apply, and that Dillon should be forced to abide by his contract not to leave the vessel except at the captain's pleasure and not to demand wages until the end of the voyage.

The decision affects every maritime nation whose vessels touch American ports. The decision also throws light on the many influences in America that have insisted that the seamen's law is a menace to this country's merchant marine, and justifies the claim of organized seamen that this hostility can be traced to the world's shipping trust.

San Francisco, April 10.—The decision of the United States supreme court in the case of Dillon against the British steamer Strathearn will equalize seamen's wages first out of American ports and ultimately the world over, says the Seamen's Journal.

"An equalization of seamen's wages will enable American ships to compete and compete successfully with all the world.

"Some day the American people will give credit where credit is due, but not just yet."

R. R. MANAGERS EVADE WORKERS' WAGE PLEA

Washington, April 10.—The long-discussed wage demand of railroad shop employes is again before the president.

The railroad managers have refused to discuss the question with employes on the ground that the public should be represented. The managers want the matter settled by the labor board to be created under the new railroad bill, and ask the employes to join with them in preparing data.

The railroad employes reply that the managers are attempting to evade responsibility, and are ignoring the intent of the law. The employes have forwarded the correspondence to the president.

In his letter to the railroad managers, Acting President Jewell of the railway employes' department, A. F. of L., says:

"Your committee has declined to comply with the plain provisions of the law and assume the responsibility of railroad managements with regard thereto, and has not given consideration to the requests of the employes for just and reasonable rates of pay, working conditions, etc., based upon the provisions of section 307, paragraph D, which shall be the guide of the labor board.

"Your entire deliberations seem to have been predicated upon the sole basis of the costs without regard to the justness and reasonableness of the requests of railroad employes.

"Your declination to consider the requests of the employes upon their merits does not place us in a position at this time to join with you in the appointment of committees to prepare data for presentation to the labor board."

SORRY FOR HEADACHE.

New York, April 10.—Ignoring the financial riot and speculation since the armistice, bankers in this city realize that the end is in sight and are now passing appropriate resolutions of regret. A committee of bankers and business men made this declaration:

"It is profoundly to be regretted that after the armistice there was not a stricter control exercised toward securing a more conscientious and effective accumulation of savings on the part of all classes. Viewing in retrospect the last 16 months, it would appear to us in the nature of a calamity that instead of permitting large amounts of these funds to be squandered in individual extravagances and to be poured into speculative ventures of little value in the large aims and needs of the hour, the world's resources could not have been better husbanded and directed. The economic loss to our own country and to the world at large has been incalculable."

OUST FARMERS' UNION.

Birmingham, Ala., April 10.—The Alabama division of the Farmers' Educational and Co-operative union has been ordered to vacate its office space in the chamber of commerce building. The farmers forwarded their members the record of a politician and this has offended the business men.

In reply to the vacate order, President Dinsmore of the Farmers' union said:

"In accepting your invitation to occupy space in your quarters we did it with no expectation that we should be expected to surrender our independence of thought or of action and thereby forfeit our right to the confidence and respect of the people of this state."

MAY STRIKE FOR 8 HOURS.

Spokane, Wash., April 10.—Eight hours' work in the lumber industry and a membership of 120,000 by the end of the year is the goal of the International Union of Timber Workers, which closed its annual convention in this city. A strike on May 1 will be called if necessary to establish the eight-hour day in the middle west. The convention arranged for a special organizing campaign in the southern camps and mills where 75 per cent of these employes are colored.

SECURE UNION SHOP.

Augusta, Ga., April 10.—A union shop agreement has been secured by Painters' union No. 170. The 44-hour week is established with pay for overtime and a minimum rate of 80 cents an hour.

Chattanooga, Tenn., April 10.—Organized painters have raised wages from $5.20 a day to $6.

WIRE MEN RAISE WAGES.

Davenport, Iowa, April 10.—Electrical workers in this city, Rock Island and Moline have secured a $1-an-hour contract.

NOTHING CAN EXCUSE SPLITS BY WORKERS

Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, April 10.—"There are a thousand things we quarrel about, and not one that is worth a quarrel," says the editor of Australian Worker, in a plea for unity of the wage earners. Workers are urged to think and to disagree, but to learn the all-important point, to differ and still remain united.

"We will have to learn to express dissent without pressing it to the point of division," says the editor.

"We have not yet risen to the concept that unity is a principle that provides its own justification. It is more important that we be united than that we should agree upon any of the questions that sunder us.

"We should come together upon the lowest level of agreement—upon those fundamental truths universally accepted by the working class—and gradually rise to agreement upon the higher planes of principle and policy.

"None need fear that the process would be too slow. Events would push us fast enough. And they would push us all the same way then, instead of scattering us in every direction, as now.

"War outside our ranks and peace within. That is the gospel of labor. Minorities should not burst through the discipline of the main body, impetuously or impatiently, but loyally conform to the will of the mass.

"It may happen that a minority is right in the matter at issue. In that case it is more than ever its duty to stay where it is and educate the many to its view.

"In the labor movement it is sometimes right to dissent, but it is always wrong to divide."

OPPOSE OVERTIME.

Washington, April 10.—Secretary of Labor Wilson has stopped overtime in his department, except in emergency cases. This order is in contrast to those who attract public attention by their claims that government employes are idlers.

Secretary Wilson issued this order:

"It has been brought to my attention that the pressure of work in some of the bureaus has resulted in almost daily overtime work being required of some of the employes. Observation of the work of the department has convinced me that while temporary emergencies may be met by working overtime, the continuation of such overtime over prolonged periods brings about a nervous strain that creates fatigue and destroys morale, to the end that it decreases rather than increases efficiency.

"It is therefore directed that no civil service employes shall be required or permitted to work overtime except in cases of emergency, in which event the emergency and the need to work overtime to overcome it shall be reported to the secretary for his approval. All persons in director positions shall be notified accordingly."

FRENCH MINERS OUT.

Lille, France, April 10.—Practically every mine in France's great coal fields is idle because of a strike of 100,000 miners who are asking for a living wage. The strikers charge coal owners with attempting to nullify the eight-hour law by keeping wages at the starvation point. The miners were paid from 10 to 21 francs a day, with 60 per cent receiving 14 francs or less. The coal owners have offered 20 francs with 1 franc bonus. The men are standing for 25 francs, with 60 centimes (12 cents) bonus for each minor child.

WOMEN'S LAW UPHELD.

Austin, Texas, April 10.—The Texas 54-hour law for women has been upheld by the court of criminal appeals. The case came before the court on appeal by a Fer[illegible] restaurant owner who was [illegible] for not providing seats for [illegible] employes when not actively [illegible] in work. The higher court [illegible] act constitutional, and the [illegible] will affect many similar cas[illegible] pending.

CLERKS' STRIKE ENDS

Bakersfield, Cal., April 10. [illegible] four-weeks' strike of retail [illegible] has been compromised. The [illegible] Clerks' union demanded a [illegible] wage for female members.

The settlement calls for a [illegible] monthly minimum for salesw[illegible] cashiers and wrappers. All [illegible] will be reinstated.

ELECTROTYPERS GA[illegible]

Franklin, Pa., April 10.—Or[illegible] ized electrotypers raised wa[illegible] a week. The new raise are [illegible]